

LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

1. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to either claim 1 or claim 3~~ for isolating disseminated tumor cells from a cell-containing body fluid, consisting essentially of passing a cell-containing body fluid or part thereof that comprises a disseminated tumor cell through a screen having a mesh or pore width of about 15 to 30  $\mu$ m to separate non-cancer cells from disseminated tumor cells, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are retained on the screen wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood and bone marrow, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are not modified prior to screening by labeling, by attaching particles, by triggering aggregation, by triggering cluster formation, with antibodies, enzymes, lectins, other ligands, other receptors or cross linking agents or by fixing.

25. – 27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A method for isolating disseminated tumor cells from a cell-containing body fluid, consisting essentially of separating cellular components from non-cellular components in a body fluid that comprises a disseminated tumor cell to obtain a cell-containing fraction; resuspending the cell-containing

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fraction in a suspension medium; and passing the resuspended cell-containing fraction through a screen having a mesh or pore width of about 15 to 30  $\mu\text{m}$  to separate non-cancer cells from disseminated tumor cells, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are retained on the screen, and wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood and bone marrow, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are not modified prior to screening by labeling, by attaching particles, by triggering aggregation, by triggering cluster formation, with antibodies, enzymes, lectins, other ligands, other receptors or cross linking agents or by fixing.